

issue. It is not included in the bill. Constitutional amendments are not included in it, just initiative and referendums, but I think it is setting the tone for everyone in their own mind as to why it is either good or it is bad to have the people involved in the legislative process. I don't see anything wrong with it and I think the public has shown a great deal of restraint in using this particular process. I recall, I believe a couple years ago, there was a petition drive that was sent around, put a lid on the amount of spending that could be done at the state level as well as the local level, and, as I recall, it did not get enough signatures. Now, you can view it in one particular way that the people just didn't feel that it was necessary at that particular time to put a lid on state spending. Now, if it was so easy, I don't see why the public could not have, in fact, got enough signatures on it to put that particular restraint on the state Legislature. It is also interesting in comparing other states that have the initiative and referendum process because I have spent a great deal of time looking at this particular issue also. You will find in other states, like California, California has just a phenomenal amount of questions that come before them on the ballot and there is a number of different reasons why California is like that. I think part of the reason is just the make-up of the people that live in that particular state. They are either active one way or the other and that might be one reason. But I think more importantly is the fact that they have different laws in dealing with initiative and referendum.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR ABOUD: They require signatures that can be allocated to fewer amount of counties so that you can get the majority of your signatures in the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles and San Francisco as well as you can compensate the circulators. Now, in Nebraska, if someone feels really upset about a law or they want to enact a constitutional amendment, they have to find some volunteers to go out and circulate these petitions. You can't pay a petition drive circulator to circulate that particular petition. It is against the law. So you have to find volunteers to go out and circulate these petitions. And I think we can all agree that two of the laws that we did pass, seat belts as well as 662, are very controversial pieces of legislation and if the voters seek to keep them on the ballot, I will abide by that